What is claimed is:

1. A home network system, comprising:

at least two electric devices; and

5      a network based on a predetermined protocol for connecting the electric

devices,

wherein a message transmitted between one electric device and the other

electric device comprises a command code field implying an operation that is to be

performed by the other electric device, and an argument field according to a

10    version of a protocol applied to one electric device for performing the operation.


2. The system of claim 1, wherein the other electric device receives the

message, extracts arguments from the argument field according to a version of a

protocol applied to the other electric device for performing the operation, and

15    processes the arguments.


3. The system of claim 2, wherein the other electric device discards

arguments which are not extracted from the argument field.


20    4. The system of claim 2, wherein, when arguments included in the

argument field of the message are deficient, the other electric device sets the

deficient arguments as predetermined values.


5. The system of claim 1, wherein the protocol is a living network control

25    protocol (LnCP).

6. An electric device based on a predetermined protocol including at least a lower layer and an upper layer,

wherein the upper layer receives from the lower layer a message including a command code field implying an operation that is to be performed by the electric

5   device, and an argument field according to a version of a protocol applied to the electric device for performing the operation, extracts a command code from the message, extracts arguments from the argument field according to the version of the protocol applied to the electric device for executing the command code, and executes the command code.

10

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the upper layer discards arguments which are not extracted from the argument field.

8. The system of claim 6, wherein, when arguments included in the

15   argument field of the message are deficient, the upper layer sets the deficient arguments as predetermined values.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein the protocol is a living network control protocol (LnCP).

20

10. A method for processing a message in a home network system, the home network system including at least two electric devices, and a network based on a predetermined protocol for connecting the electric devices, the method comprising the steps of:

25       generating and transmitting, at one electric device, a message including a command code field implying an operation that is to be performed by the other

electric device, and an argument field according to a version of a protocol applied
to one electric device for performing the operation;

extracting, at the other electric device, a command code from the message;

extracting, at the other electric device, arguments from the argument field

5    according to a version of a protocol applied to the other electric device for
executing the command code; and

executing, at the other electric device, the command code.


11. The method of claim 10, further comprising a step for discarding, at the

10   other electric device, arguments which are not extracted from the argument field.


12. The method of claim 10, further comprising a step for setting deficient
arguments as predetermined values, when arguments included in the argument
field of the message are deficient.

15

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the protocol is a living network control
protocol (LnCP).


14. A storage means for storing a message structure in a home network

20   system, the home network system including at least two electric devices, and a
network based on a predetermined protocol for connecting the electric devices,

wherein a message transmitted in the home network system comprises a
command code field and an argument field for executing the command code, and
the argument field is varied according to a version of a protocol applied to the

25   electric device.

15. The storage medium of claim 14, wherein, when the version of the protocol applied to the electric device is the lowest version, the argument field comprises only a basic argument field for the version of the protocol.

5      16. The storage medium of either claim 14 or 15, wherein, when a lower version of the version of the protocol applied to the electric device exists, the argument field comprises a basic argument field for the lower version of the version of the protocol, and an extend argument field for the version of the protocol.

10      17. The storage medium of claim 16, wherein the message including the extend argument field is an extendable message included in the protocol, or an invariable message which is not included in the protocol but is defined for the intrinsic functions of the manufacturer.

15      18. The storage medium of claim 14, wherein the protocol is a living network control protocol (LnCP).